

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of managing unopened electronic messages comprising the steps of:

displaying a home screen on a visual display;

providing, at a location on the home screen, a first indicator of the presence of a number of unopened electronic messages received, and an associated value reflecting the number of unopened electronic messages received;

selectively displaying on the visual display a message listing to view portions of electronic messages, the electronic messages including at least one electronic message in an unopened state;

redisplaying the home screen with the first indicator on the visual display, following display of the message listing, and while the at least one electronic message is in the unopened state; and

altering the first indicator to provide a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation that a new unopened electronic message is received, the visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation distinguishing the new unopened electronic message from the at least one electronic message in the unopened state.

- 2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A method of managing unopened electronic messages comprising the steps of:

displaying a home screen on a visual display;

providing, at a location on the home screen, a first indicator of the presence of a number of unopened electronic messages received, and an associated value reflecting the number of unopened electronic messages received;

selectively displaying on the visual display a message listing to view portions of electronic messages, the electronic messages including at least one electronic message in an unopened state;

redisplaying the home screen with the first indicator on the visual display, following display of the message listing, and while the at least one electronic message is in the unopened state; and

generating a second indicator at, or proximate to, the location on the home screen, to provide a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation by altering the first indicator with the non-numerical annunciation to reflect that a new electronic message is received, the visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation distinguishing the new electronic message from the at least one electronic message in the unopened state.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

displaying an icon with the first and second indicators; and

altering the icon by flashing, bolding, changing the size, and changing the color of the icon.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

adding indicia to the first indicator.

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein the step of altering the first indicator comprises altering at least one of an unopened mail icon and a count of unopened electronic messages.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A system for managing electronic messages received, comprising:

a visual display;

a home screen displaying one or more icons corresponding to functions that can be performed by the system;

a message listing providing portions of received electronic messages including at least one electronic message in an unopened state;

input means for selectively displaying the message listing on the visual display, and redisplaying the home screen on the visual display while the at least one electronic message is in the unopened state;

a first indicator at a location on the home screen for indicating the presence of a number of electronic messages in an unopened state from among the received electronic messages and an associated value reflecting the number of electronic messages in an unopened state; and

a second indicator at, or proximate, to the location on the home screen that alters the first indicator to provide a visually distinguishable

non-numerical annunciation reflecting that new unopened electronic messages have been received , the visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation distinguishing the new unopened electronic messages from the at least one electronic message in the unopened state.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the visually distinguishable annunciation comprises an alteration to the count of unopened electronic messages received.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 13, wherein the alteration to the count comprises at least one of:

bolding the count, flashing the count, changing the size of the count, and changing the color of the count.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the second indicator comprises additional indicia on the display.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the second indicator comprises a message icon on the display adjacent the count of unopened electronic messages received, and the annunciation of the presence of a new unopened electronic message received since the message list was last displayed comprises altering the message icon.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 16, wherein altering the message icon comprises at least one of:

bolding the icon, flashing the icon, changing the size of the icon, and changing the color of the icon.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A method of managing unopened electronic messages comprising the steps of:

displaying a home screen on a visual display;

providing, at a location on the home screen, a first indicator of the presence of a number of unopened electronic messages, and a first associated value reflecting the number of unopened electronic messages;

selectively displaying on the visual display a message listing to view portions of unopened electronic messages;

redisplaying the home screen with the first indicator on the visual display, following display of the message listing, and while at least one electronic message is still in an unopened state; and

providing a second indicator at the location on the home screen, reflecting that a number of new unopened electronic messages have been received, the second indicator distinguishing the new unopened electronic messages from the at least one electronic message in the unopened state represented by the first indicator.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of managing unopened electronic messages comprising the steps of:

displaying a home screen on a visual display;

providing, at a location on the home screen, a first indicator of the presence of a number of unopened electronic messages received, and an associated value reflecting the number of unopened electronic messages received;

selectively displaying on the visual display a message listing to view portions of the ~~unread~~ unopened electronic messages received;

redisplaying the home screen with the first indicator on the visual display, following display of the message listing, and while at least one electronic message is in an unopened state; and

altering the first indicator to provide a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation that a new unopened electronic message is received, the visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation distinguishing the new unopened electronic message from the at least one electronic message in the unopened state; and

updating the associated value to provide a single value simultaneously reflecting the new unopened electronic message and the at least one electronic message in the unopened state.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- determining a Boolean value associated with the visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation; and
 - triggering the Boolean value, upon receipt of the new unopened electronic message following redisplaying of the home screen, to control displaying of the visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

maintaining the alteration of the first indicator until selectively redisplaying on the visual display the message listing while the new unopened electronic message is in an unopened state.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

removing the second indicator upon selectively redisplaying on the visual display the message listing while the new unopened electronic message is in an unopened state.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the second indicator is removed upon selectively redisplaying on the visual display the message listing while the new unopened electronic message is in an unopened state.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 19, further comprising:

removing the second indicator upon selectively redisplaying on the visual display the message listing while a new unopened electronic message is in an unopened state.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, further comprising:

maintaining the alteration of the first indicator until selectively redisplaying on the visual display the message listing while the new unopened electronic message is in an unopened state.

27-28. (Cancelled).